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Press Release

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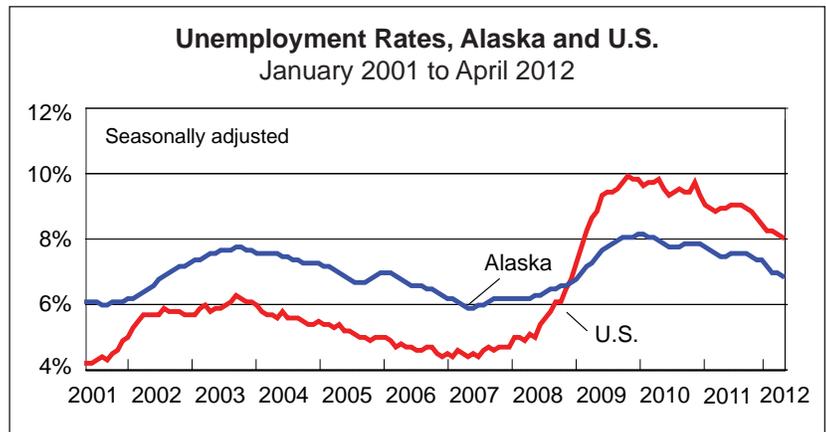
Unemployment rate at 6.9 percent in April

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.9 percent, essentially unchanged from 7.0 percent in March. The comparable national rate was 8.1 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point.

The U.S. and Alaska rates have both declined gradually but consistently in recent months, although unlike Alaska's rate, the U.S. rate remains significantly higher than pre-recession levels.

Job numbers show the same pattern. U.S. employment is still about five million below its January 2008 peak, while Alaska quickly recovered after the mild job losses of 2009. Preliminary estimates for 2012 show a continuing trend of modest job growth in Alaska.

Unemployment rates around the state, which are not seasonally adjusted, fell in all but one region in April as the labor market geared up for summer. Juneau's rate of 4.8 percent was the state's lowest, and the Wade Hampton Census Area's was highest at 21.4 percent. Rates tend to decline over the spring and summer as many Alaskans take seasonal jobs in fishing, seafood processing, construction and tourism.



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	4/12	3/12	4/11
Alaska	6.9%	7.0%	7.5%
U.S.	8.1%	8.2%	9.0%

Sources for graph and table: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

For detailed employment estimates, see labor.alaska.gov/research/ces/ces.htm. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/12 ^P	3/12	4/11	Number			Rate		
				4/12 ^P	3/12	4/11	4/12 ^P	3/12	4/11
Alaska Statewide	363,398	364,856	362,269	26,493	28,483	27,931	7.3	7.8	7.7
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	199,341	200,119	200,134	12,583	13,482	13,663	6.3	6.7	6.8
Municipality of Anchorage	156,431	156,685	157,066	8,894	9,244	9,756	5.7	5.9	6.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,910	43,434	43,068	3,689	4,238	3,907	8.6	9.8	9.1
Gulf Coast Region	39,067	39,422	38,415	3,281	3,598	3,599	8.4	9.1	9.4
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,075	27,259	26,615	2,401	2,668	2,651	8.9	9.8	10.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,992	7,183	6,883	406	406	445	5.8	5.7	6.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,000	4,980	4,917	474	524	503	9.5	10.5	10.2
Interior Region	54,619	54,485	54,074	4,118	4,475	4,137	7.5	8.2	7.7
Denali Borough	938	882	907	153	178	137	16.3	20.2	15.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,808	46,930	46,379	3,062	3,338	3,105	6.5	7.1	6.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,588	3,549	3,567	393	423	402	11.0	11.9	11.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,285	3,124	3,221	510	536	493	15.5	17.2	15.3
Northern Region	13,088	13,398	12,681	1,263	1,342	1,251	9.7	10.0	9.9
Nome Census Area	4,225	4,370	4,150	484	507	519	11.5	11.6	12.5
North Slope Borough	5,640	5,791	5,434	284	316	267	5.0	5.5	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,223	3,237	3,097	495	519	465	15.4	16.0	15.0
Southeast Region	39,295	38,205	39,044	2,757	3,137	2,915	7.0	8.2	7.5
Haines Borough	1,278	1,110	1,286	118	133	120	9.2	12.0	9.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	932	821	920	186	210	185	20.0	25.6	20.1
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,720	18,471	18,598	902	980	985	4.8	5.3	5.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,797	7,554	7,750	564	633	599	7.2	8.4	7.7
Petersburg Census Area	1,632	1,603	1,640	153	192	180	9.4	12.0	11.0
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,416	2,392	2,396	363	434	369	15.0	18.1	15.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,591	4,471	4,551	255	280	265	5.6	6.3	5.8
Skagway, Municipality of	565	512	561	87	121	90	15.4	23.6	16.0
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,057	1,033	1,029	101	121	85	9.6	11.7	8.3
Yakutat, City and Borough of	307	238	313	28	33	37	9.1	13.9	11.8
Southwest Region	17,989	19,225	17,921	2,491	2,447	2,366	13.8	12.7	13.2
Aleutians East Borough	1,444	1,368	1,441	134	115	130	9.3	8.4	9.0
Aleutians West Census Area	2,989	4,329	2,925	308	211	235	10.3	4.9	8.0
Bethel Census Area	7,085	7,191	7,104	1,077	1,120	1,069	15.2	15.6	15.0
Bristol Bay Borough	721	449	727	52	52	49	7.2	11.6	6.7
Dillingham Census Area	1,889	2,099	1,903	210	218	223	11.1	10.4	11.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,014	927	1,024	101	107	107	10.0	11.5	10.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,847	2,862	2,797	609	624	553	21.4	21.8	19.8

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

Note: The official definition of unemployment excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Many in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics